

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, June 16, 2006

CHIEF RAMSEY TESTIFIES IN SUPPORT OF JUVENILE PUBLIC SAFETY NOTIFICATION ACT

Facing a sharp increase in violent crimes involving juveniles, the DC Council is considering legislation that would provide the MPDC with greater access to basic information about some of the most at-risk juvenile offenders who are in the community. Chief Ramsey this past week testified in favor of the measure — the Mandatory Juvenile Public Safety Notification Amendment Act of 2006 — during a hearing before the Judiciary Committee. He said the Department needs access to the information in order to better identify and intervene with juvenile offenders who are at the greatest risk of re-offending or becoming victims of crime themselves. The legislation would provide the MPDC with access to a carefully selected and limited set of public safety-related data on certain high-risk juveniles who are in the community. The records include such information as stay-away orders and conditions of probation or release imposed by Family Court, as well as basic information about juveniles who have been arrested and committed to the custody of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, including in community-based facilities. The law would also help ensure the timely notification of the MPDC when a juvenile absconds from a DYRS placement. “Providing the police with access to this data would go a long way toward helping us do a better job of protecting the community and safeguarding at-risk juveniles,” the Chief said. Ramsey said the new measure is needed to help police deal with a recent spike in violent crime committed by juveniles. After increasing 37 percent last year, arrests of juveniles for robbery have risen an astonishing 85 percent this year. The number of juveniles arrested for weapons offenses are also up sharply.

- ⦿ Read the Chief’s complete statement to the Committee at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,A,1247,Q,560199.asp>
- ⦿ View recent aggregate statistics on juvenile and adult arrest activity at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,A,1232,Q,559499.asp>

“40 DAYS OF INCREASED PEACE” SEEKS TO PREVENT YOUTH CRIME AND VIOLENCE THIS SUMMER

The MPDC this week kicked off a centerpiece of its citywide summer youth crime prevention strategy: the “40 Days of Increased Peace” initiative. Coinciding with the end of the school year and continuing into August, the “40 Days” program features a series of athletic, recreational, health and other activities focusing on young people and their families. The goal is to provide youth with safe and entertaining ways to spend their summer days and nights. Originally launched in the year 2000 in communities east of the Anacostia River, “40 Days of Increased Peace” now covers Police Service Areas in all seven police districts. The citywide kickoff was held June 14 at the Boys and Girls Clubhouse on Benning Road, NE, with MPDC officials, community leaders and clergy members coming together to express their commitment to youth safety this summer. Officials announced the creation of a telephone hotline — (202) “I’m-Bored” (462-6733) — for people to call throughout the summer to get information and updates on “40 Days” events and

- ⦿ Get more information, including a complete calendar of events by police district, at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/40daysv>

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activities. "Our young people will face many challenges this summer, not the least of which may be idle time and boredom," said Chief Ramsey. "That's why it's so important that we step up to the plate and provide our youth with positive and meaningful activities throughout the summer." This year's initiative is supported by more than 40 partners, including the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, Children's National Medical Center, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), US Department of Justice, East of the River and ROC Central's Clergy-Police-Community Partnerships, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington and others.

DC RECORDS A SLIGHT DECREASE IN CRIME IN 2005

DC recorded a slight overall reduction in crime during 2005, marking the fourth consecutive annual decline and the ninth annual reduction in the past 10 years. According to official Uniform Crime Reports data submitted to the FBI, the District recorded fewer homicides (-2%), rapes (-24%) and aggravated assaults (-0.2%) in 2005 than in 2004. There were 195 murders in 2005, compared with 198 in 2004. These two years marked the first time since the mid-1980s that DC recorded fewer than 200 homicides in consecutive years. Among property crimes, there were also reductions last year in burglaries (-9%), auto thefts (8%) and arson offenses (-25%). However, the reductions in these six "Index" crime categories were nearly offset by increases in two other crime types: robberies, which rose nearly 15 percent, and thefts, which increased by 3 percent. Data also suggest that juveniles accounted for a sizable portion of last year's increase in robberies. Arrests of juveniles for robbery offenses rose by nearly 37 percent between 2004 and 2005. Among the seven police districts, serious crime was down in five districts, with the Fourth and Sixth districts recording double-digit decreases in overall crime. Serious was up in 1D and 3D, however. The FBI data represent the "Crime Index," a group of eight commonly defined and reported crimes that, together, provide a consistent measure of crime in the United States over time.

NEWS & NOTES

Meeting for Survivors of Homicide Victims. The MPDC's Violent Crimes Branch invites immediate family members of homicide victims whose deaths occurred in 2002 or 2003 to attend a special meeting with the detectives working on their loved one's case. Detectives will be available for one-on-one meetings with immediate family members to discuss case status and to discuss any additional information that may be helpful in closing the case. Meetings will take place on Wednesday, June 28, from 3-8 pm, at the Maurice T. Turner Jr., Institute of Police Science, 4665 Blue Plains Drive, SW. For information or to schedule an appointment, call the MPDC's Family Liaison Specialist Unit at (202) 645-6363 or 645-5537.

MPDC Supports Special Olympics in a Big Way. For the eighth year in a row, the MPDC has received the Special Olympics' "Top Gun" award for raising more money than any other area law enforcement agency during this year's Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. MPDC personnel raised approximately \$19,500 through the purchase of more than 1,300 Torch Run t-shirts and hats. Hundreds of employees participated in the Torch Run on June 9, from the US Capitol to Fort McNair. Details on the Law Enforcement Torch Run are at www.specialolympics.org/Special+Olympics+Public+Website/English/Support/Law_Enforcement_Torch_Run/default.htm

Chatting with the Chief. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls during his monthly "Chatting with the Chief" segment on WHUR-96.3 FM, from 7:15-7:30 pm on Tuesday, June 20.

- View the annual Index Crime totals for DC as a whole and the seven police districts at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543315.asp>
- Nationally, the FBI reported a 2.5 percent increase in violent crimes last year and a 1.4 percent reduction in property offenses. Details at:
<http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel06/prelim2005061206.htm>

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 6/16/06

- ◆ 2006: 75
- ◆ 2005: 77
- ◆ % Change: -2.6%
- ◆ Closure Rate: 45.3% (34 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 6/10/06

- ◆ Total: 956
- ◆ Weapons: 19
- ◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 16
- ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 66

Juvenile Activity week end. 9/17/05

- ◆ Arrests: 44
- ◆ Robbery: 12
- ◆ Curfew Violators: 66
- ◆ Truants: 72

Firearm Recoveries as of 6/14/06

- ◆ June: 89
- ◆ 2006 Total: 1,084

Traffic Fatalities as of 6/16/06

- ◆ 2006: 22
- ◆ 2005: 20
- ◆ % Change: +10.0%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to KEVIN MORISON, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with Crimereports.com.

mpdc.dc.gov